

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:DO'DONOHUE:JDB

APPROVED BY EA - MR. MILLER

DOD/ISA - MR. FLINT (SUBSTANCE)

EA/IMS - MR. INGRAHAM

PM/SAS - MR. SLOTT

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 037103

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, KS, ID, SN

SUBJECT: POSSIBILITY OF ROK ASSISTANCE IN DEVELOPMENT
OF INDONESIAN AIR FORCE

REF: SEOUL 987

1. ON FEBRUARY 12, AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN PAUL MCCANN
CALLED SEPARATELY ON STATE AND DEFENSE OFFICERS.

2. AS INDICATED REFTEL MCCANN'S PURPOSE WAS TO ASCER-
TAIN USG REACTION TO "CONCEPT" OF JOINT US/INDONESIA/
ROK PLANNING FOR REDEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION INDONESIAN
AIRFORCE CAPABILITY. MCCANN PRESENTED VERY GENERAL
OUTLINE OF HIS CONCEPT WHICH CONTAINED NO SPECIFIC
PROPOSALS OR CONCRETE RECOMMENDATIONS. (OUTLINE BEING
POUCHED SEOUL AND JAKARTA).

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3. IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES BY DEPTOFFS, MCCANN INDICATED THAT HIS APPROACH BASED ON DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN HIS PARTNER EDDIE TAN AND GENERAL ALI MURTOPO. MCCANN AVERRED THAT ALI MURTOPO HAD AUTHORIZED TAN TO PURSUE THIS MATTER PRIVATELY IN ORDER TO ASCERTAIN INFORMAL USG REACTION.

4. DESPITE PROBING QUESTIONS, MCCANN WAS UNABLE TO DESCRIBE IN SPECIFIC TERMS WHAT HIS "CONCEPT" INVOLVED OTHER THAN STRESSING THE POLITICAL DESIRABILITY OF KOREAN INVOLVEMENT IN "PROGRAMMING" FOR EXPANSION OF INDONESIAN AIR FORCE SO AS TO AVOID OVER IDENTIFICATION OF GOI WITH USG. (DEPT OFFICERS POINTED OUT PRESENCE IN JAKARTA OF DLG AND EXISTENCE OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM).

5. FOR OUR PART, STATE AND DEFENSE OFFICERS TOLD MCCANN THAT IT NOT POSSIBLE FOR USG TO GIVE ANY VIEW ON FEASIBILITY HIS PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME. THEY STRESSED THAT USG WOULD HAVE TO HAVE CONCRETE PROPOSAL FROM GOVERNMENT SOURCE IN ORDER PROPERLY ADDRESS QUESTIONS HIS "CONCEPT" POSED.

6. COMMENT: MCCANN PRESENTATION SO GENERAL AS TO DEFY ANY SUMMARIZATION AND, AS NOTED ABOVE, CONTAINED NO SPECIFIC PROPOSALS. MCCANN APPARENTLY WAS SEEKING INDICATION USG APPROVAL IN ADVANCE FOR HIS "CONCEPT". STATE/DEFENSE OFFICERS MADE CLEAR THEY WERE UNABLE TO GIVE ANY SUCH APPROVAL.

7. FOR JAKARTA: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY MIGHT HAVE REGARDING EITHER MCCANN PROPOSAL OR INVOLVEMENT OF ALI MURTOPO. IN THE ABSENCE OF SOME MORE FORMAL APPROACH FROM GOI, WE INTEND TO TAKE NO FURTHER ACTION. KISSINGER

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